



State of Missouri
Office of Homeland Security

Matt Blunt
Governor

Department of Public Safety
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Paul Fennewald
Homeland Security
Coordinator

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Dear Fire Chiefs:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and share my vision for the Fire Chief's crucial role in Missouri's Homeland Security program.

I was recently appointed to head the Office of Homeland Security as the Homeland Security Coordinator. I report directly to Mark James, Director of the Department of Public Safety – the state agency that constitutes the backbone of Homeland Security for our state. Our primary focus is the security and safety of Missouri's citizens. However, without a unified effort and effective communication between all sectors and agencies of the federal, state, county, and local government, including the Fire Chiefs, we will not be successful. I share the current Administration's belief that homeland security encompasses a broad spectrum of threats, well beyond just the threat of terrorism. Preparation, prevention, and response are equally important in the overall homeland security concept. To succeed, we need to embrace the idea of a unified and seamless "all hazards" approach to the development and implementation of our homeland security programs.

Your role in our homeland security programs is vital, and I will look to your valuable input, suggestions, and where appropriate, constructive criticism. As we establish advisory groups to help determine the best course of action in relation to the different critical infrastructure sectors, I will be calling on all of you to get involved.

For those of you who do not know me, I look forward to meeting each of you in the near future. To all of you, do not hesitate to call upon me at (573) 522-3007 if I may be of further service or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul H. Fennewald".

Paul H. Fennewald
Homeland Security Coordinator